

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 06701 232213Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----122493 232217Z /75

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SEDSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6456

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6701

EXDIS

DEPT PASS NSC

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

1. I LEARNED TODAY AT 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME VIA VOA THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL MAKE AN EIGHT NATION TOUR COVERING FOUR CONTINENTS NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 2, INCLUDING NIGERIA. LEAVING PRESIDENT ROSSEVELT'S TRAVELS TO BLACK AFRICA BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS CLEARLY AN HISTORIC OCCASION WHICH WILL BE WIDELY APPLAUDED.

2. HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, I WOULD BE DERELICT INDEED IF I DID NOT, HOWEVER, EXPRESS THE STRONGEST RESERVATIONS AT THE OMISSION OF THE ONE NATION IN AFRICA WITH WHICH THE U.S. HAS THE CLOSEST, LONGEST AND MOST STRATEGIC TIES OF ALL, LIBERIA.

3. UNQUESTIONABLY NIGERIA IS IMPORTANT WITH GROWING INFLUENCE AND A SOLID ECONOMIC BASE AND NO ONE WOULD QUARREL WITH A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT THERE EVEN THOUGH GENERAL OBASANJO IS PAYING A STATE VISIT TO THE U.S. IN OCTOBER. THE IMPROVEMENT
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IN U.S./NIGERIAN RELATIONS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION'S AFRICAN POLICY. WE ALSO TOOK A GREAT DELIGHT IN THE STATE VISIT IN AUGUST OF PRESIDENT NYERERE. THIS WAS ANOTHER PLUS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH AFRICA.

4. THE HARD FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT LIBERIA HAS A SPECIAL AND IRREVOCABLE CLAIM ON THE U.S AND FOR IT

NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN A VISIT AS HISTORIC AS THE FIRST VISIT
TO FREE AFRICA OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS NOTHING SHORT
OF A SERIOUS INSULT.

5. I KNOW YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THESE FACTS BUT I LIST
THEM AGAIN FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS MESSAGE.

A. LIBERIA IS THE OLDEST INDEPENDENT NATION IN AFRICA.
ITS CREATION WAS OUR OWN.

B. LIBERIA IS AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRACY DEDICATED TO THE
FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND WITH A STABLE GOVERNMENT THAT HAS
BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF MANY OF OUR OBJECTIVES IN INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, I.E., HUMAN RIGHTS, PUERTO RICO, KOREA, ETC. IT WAS
OUR ALLY IN BOTH WORLD WARS.

C. WE HAVE STRATEGIC ASSETS HERE, INCLUDING TREATY ACCESS TO
THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE SEAPORT OF MONROVIA IN
THE EVENT OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY. THESE HAVE BEEN VALUABLE
ASSETS DURING WWII, ZAIRE (CONGO IN THE 60'S), THE MIDDLE
EAST IN 67 AND 73 AND ANGOLA.

D. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST FIGURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE, THE LARGEST INVESTMENT IN U.S. BLACK AFRICA IS
IN LIBERIA -- EVEN GREATER THAN THAT OF NIGERIA.

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E. LIBERIA IS THE SITE OF OUR REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES SERVICING MOST EMBASSIES IN AFRICA. IT IS THE
SITE OF THE ONE VOA TRANSMITTER IN AFRICA, WHICH SOON WILL
BE AUGMENTED TO ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO BROADCAST TO SOUTHERN
AFRICA.

6. YOU ARE GOING TO RECEIVE MANY REQUESTS FROM OTHER
EMBASSIES AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT ADDING LIBERIA OR ANY
OTHER COUNTRY AT THIS POINT WILL BE LOGISTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE
BUT I URGE AT LEAST A BRIEF STOP HERE.

7. IF THE ANNOUNCED ITINERARY BECOMES, IN FACT, THE FINAL
ITINERARY, THEN I URGE THAT I BE GIVEN A SPECIAL MESSAGE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SHARE WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT, WHO
WILL DOUBTLESS QUERY ME IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO, AS TO WHY
LIBERIA HAS BEEN OMITTED.

CARTER

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Message Attributes

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